

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd October 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

AN abstract of an article in the *Roznama-i-Mukaddus Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 10th October :—

The Persian Mission.

ROZNAHA-I-MUKADDUS
HABUL MATEEN.
Oct. 10th, 1904.

The object of the proposed Persian Mission may be to make an effort to gain a diplomatic success in Persia for England. But the Persians are too wise to allow the Mission an opportunity to gain that object. The Government of the Persian Gulf is taking every precaution to prevent the Chiefs and patriarchal heads of that Subah from entering into any agreement with the Mission. The Foreign Department of Persia knows full well that the English, who carry out their political plans under the guise of commerce, are increasing their political influence in Kerman and Baluchistan, and that they have already quartered a Political Officer at Banu.

Since the success of the Tibet Mission, the word mission has acquired a peculiar significance. To send an English Mission to Persia, therefore, means, to all intents and proposes, an effort to overawe Persia. Although the Mission will be of a private character, it will try to secure the political as well as the commercial objects of the British Government. But it is not likely to be successful, as the statesmen who are at present at the helm of Persian affairs are the ablest of their kind in that country. With the object of watching the movements of the Mission, Russia is also sending a Commission to that country which is likely to be helped by the Belgian Customs officers who are in the employ of Persia. We are, however, of opinion that the Belgian officers are not likely to do anything which might be prejudicial to the interests of the Government which employs them.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Swadesi* [Barisal] of the 11th October calls attention to the depredations of a tiger in village Kamarkati near Swarupkati station. In the course of about a week the animal has destroyed half-a-dozen cows and she-goats. A party of villagers one day went in search of the tiger, but as they were unarmed, the animal easily made his escape after wounding eight or ten of his would-be captors. Official help is solicited.

SWADESI,
Oct. 11th, 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

3. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th October makes the following allegations against the District Judge and the District Magistrate of Rangpur :—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Oct. 15th, 1904.

- (1) That he unduly strains section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code to dismiss most of the complaints which come before him.
- (2) That in cases which are not disposed of in this way, the vakils concerned are made to certify that the cases in question are triable by Criminal Courts, and their evidence is then first taken.
- (3) That he allows nobody to pass before the room which he occupies. A *chaprasi* was recently fined five rupees for failing to enforce this order.

Against the District Judge of Rangpur it is alleged :—

- (1) That in the matter of civil appeals he is in the habit of changing the dates of hearing with needless frequency, to the harassment of pleaders and suitors.
- (2) That the award of judgment is delayed long after the hearing has been finished.
- (3) That in the matter of the attendance of *pardanishin* women at Court he does not issue orders after a patient and deliberate hearing of the merits of each individual case.
- (4) That he inflicts a sentence of whipping even on an offender who has already suffered seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Oct. 11th, 1904.

4. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th October writes:—

This new Bill threatens us with a new tax. As regards the present constitution of the District Board, it is no exaggeration to say that the elected members have no influence as against the Magistrate-Chairman. For half the members are nominated by Government, that is, indirectly by that officer himself, and these nominees think it their duty to support their patron in all his proposals. If any scope is to be given to real as distinguished from nominal Local Self-Government, the proportion of elected members should be raised from half to two-thirds.

The system of election of members to the Local Boards also requires modification. The thanas being the polling stations for voting purposes this arrangement proves unduly favourable to people who reside near the thanas, at the expense of others living in the remote villages.

The debates in the meetings of the Boards are in the majority of cases mere farces. The elected members are absolutely reduced to a cypher when the Magistrate proves a man fond of having his own way in everything.

It is the declared policy of Government that no official interference shall be allowed in the election of members either to the Boards or the Municipalities. But we know, as a matter of fact, that there are many elections in which the strings are pulled from behind by high-placed officials.

We should not be satisfied with the mere shadow of Self-Government which is all that we now possess. It is true that in this matter we are dependent on the pure mercy of Government, but at any rate we can, if we choose, refuse to have anything to do with the present farcical arrangements. Nothing comes without sacrifice. Unless we strengthen our national character we can never win the respect and esteem of a powerful race like the English. If we can show strength of mind our rulers can never long be able to keep us out of all participation in public affairs.

The Municipalities enjoy a larger share of independence than the District Boards, but even this small measure of liberty is now being systematically taken away. They have now to be careful not to incur the frowns of the powers that be. As instances, take the recent interference in the election of the Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality, the supersession of the Santipur Municipality last year for a trivial offence, and generally the appointment of the Subdivisional Officer as Chairman where such an arrangement is possible.

We do not admit that the making of Subdivisional Magistrates heads of the local Municipalities leads to efficiency, for his local influence is already too great to allow of private persons freely expressing their judgment against him. His dread figure must therefore be removed from the field of municipal politics if any liberty of judgment and action is to be allowed to the independent members of the local governing body.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Oct. 11th, 1904.

5. Referring to the assumption of the management of the Bhawal estate in Dacca by the Court of Wards and the incidents accompanying that event, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th October writes:—

There is nothing surprising in it. It was expected that such was to be the result of Mr. Meyers's dismissal. We hear that the Legal Remembrancer and the Advocate-General expressed opinions adverse to the legality of the assumption of the management of the estate by the Court of Wards. The Rani is suffering the consequences of her own act in daring to dismiss a European manager from her service. Will her fate serve to warn other zamindars to moderate their partiality for appointing European managers? What was the Magistrate's intention in taking Mr. Meyers with him to Bhawal at the time of taking possession? Was it to teach the Rani that the dismissal of a European means disgrace and ruin to the person who dismisses him? The people of the country are greatly moved at this spectacle of the fate which has overtaken the Bhawal estate.

6. Referring to the fact that the Dowager Rani of Bhawal in the Dacca district was ordered peremptorily by the District Magistrate to leave her palace within ten minutes,

JYOTI,
Oct. 13th, 1904.

The Bhawal affair.
the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th October writes as follows:—

Mr. Meyers was the manager of the Bhawal estate. Dissatisfied with his work, the Dowager Rani dismissed him. He then won over the eldest son of the Rani to his side and tried to place the estate under the Court of Wards. Next followed the sad incident noted above. Mr. Meyers was no doubt at its bottom. Thanks to the inscrutable law of the British Empire, the man who was a servant yesterday is made the master to-day. Why did the Magistrate take Mr. Meyers with him? Was it not to add insult to injury? As for the eldest Raj Kumar, he, who could cause his mother to be insulted in this manner, is not worthy of the name of man. Let us see what our just Government does in the matter.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

7. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 12th October reports a case of alleged outrage on a female by a railway employé.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Oct. 12th, 1904.

A case of alleged outrage on a female by a railway servant.

It appears that on the 11th October last, four persons, Upendranath Ghosh, Narendranath Ghosh, Nityananda Patra and Haripriya Dasi, of village Kankra Birkul in thana Baleswar Baliapal, were passengers by the No. 4 up Madras Mail, Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The party occupied different compartments, Upendra and Haripriya being in one, and Narendra and Nityananda being in another. But all the four tickets were in charge of Nityananda. The train arrived in due course at about 9.55 p.m. at Khargpur, where a halt of 14 minutes is allowed, during which interval the tickets of the passengers are checked. A Eurasian ticket-collector named Carroll, came on his usual round to inspect Upendra's and Haripriya's tickets. Upendra referred him to Nityananda, who, as has been said before, was in a separate compartment. The ticket-collector asked Upendra to alight and point out to him where Nityananda was. On this, Upendra and Haripriya both alighted, but before they could find out Nityananda the train started off, leaving them behind on the platform. Carroll and one or two other railway employés now took the two passengers in charge, and, on the pretext of taking them to the Railway Police station, made for the new waiting-room by way of the overbridge. When they had got some way over this bridge, the two railway servants forcibly restrained Upendra from proceeding any further, threatening to throw him down from the height if he made any noise. Carroll alone now accompanied Haripriya down the bridge, and there violated her modesty. The next morning Upendra and Haripriya brought their case to the notice of Mr. Eaglesome, the District Traffic Superintendent. They were able to identify only the Eurasian ticket-collector, but not the other two employés. The District Traffic Superintendent contented himself with dismissing Carroll. But is this departmental punishment enough for such a heinous offence? Should not the culprit have been made over to the police? The Railway authorities have done what they thought their duty; but Government has its own duty to do in this matter. It is to be earnestly hoped that a sifting enquiry will be made by them into the facts of this case.

(h)—*General.*

8. A correspondent of the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 12th October makes the following allegations against Babu Syam Lal Gupta, Subdivisional Officer of Katwa in Burdwan:—

PALLIVASI,
Oct. 12th, 1904.

Complaints against Babu Syamlal Gupta, the Subdivisional Officer of Katwa in Burdwan.

(1) Mr. Gupta does not attend Court at the regular hour. He chooses his own hours of business (usually 2 p.m. to 7 or 8 p.m.), to the great inconvenience of the *amla* and suitors alike.

(2) He is too particular about being styled "Mister" and extremely sensitive about being treated with the respect proper to a European. Many cases are referred to, which owe their origin to fancied insults to this sense of dignity:—

(a) A man was one day found calling in too loud a voice to a travelling companion on the road which runs to the south of the

Criminal Court. The Subdivisional Officer's dignity was upset and he sent out peons to arrest the offender. They returned with a perfectly innocent man, one Mukbul Shekh, of Simulia in thana Mangalkot, in custody. This man was severely belaboured by the peons and in addition got a week's rigorous imprisonment.

(b) A vendor of jack fruits got into high words with one of the Subdivisional Magistrate's *chaprasis* over the price of one of these fruits. The *chaprasi* complained to his master, and although the day was a holiday, a warrant was issued against the offending fruit-seller. Ultimately, however, the case was compromised.

(3) His unjust partiality towards the police is illustrated in the following case: On the 20th September last, a constable named Bholanath, when riding his horse at great speed in the heart of the town, ran against a young woman named Kasi Dasi. The woman was seriously hurt, and was sent for treatment to hospital. But the complaint which her husband brought was dismissed on the strength of a report by the head of the local police, the very body to which the accused also belonged.

(4) In the recent case, Trailokyanath Misra *versus* the Chairman of the Dainhat Municipality, a summons was issued against the Subdivisional Officer as the defendant. In this summons the prefix "Mister" was omitted before the name Syamlal Gupta. The attention of the Munsif concerned was immediately drawn to this omission.

(5) As head of the local Barwari, school or library funds, he issues appeals for subscriptions. In these appeals he inserts his official designation against his own name, as an inducement to people. His zeal in this direction may be gauged from the fact that on one occasion he had a warrant issued against a local tradesman who refused to pay his *katyani* subscription. His interference in these local concerns has led to parties being formed for and against him, thus interfering seriously with his impartiality as a judicial officer. He is getting unpopular among the local gentry.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Oct. 12th, 1904.

9. Referring to the creation of a special cadre for Europeans and Eurasians in the Secretariat clerical service, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th October writes:—

Government is evidently going to teach Bengalis self-help with a vengeance. The natives are being gradually excluded from all the higher Government posts. The ways of Government are amazing, for really it hurls bolts from a blue sky. Consider the announcement in the *Calcutta Gazette* of last week, in connection with the clerkship examination, reserving specifically a certain number of posts in different Government offices for Eurasians and Europeans. This is called a policy of justice, above considerations of race and creed. In connection with this matter people are nowadays apt to quote the Queen's Proclamation, but we do not wish to go over the old ground on this occasion. The English Government always boasts of its justice; but people are now coming to know that under the influence of growing power and prosperity a deterioration in its moral character has set in. We expect better things for India from England. For England is at present the sole arbiter of India's destinies. All hope will indeed be taken away if the only resources of the livelihood of these helpless and supplicating people are to be given away to strangers in this fashion. The people did not expect such a policy from a justice-loving worshipper of Christ like Sir A. Fraser.

BASUMATI,
Oct. 15th, 1904.

10. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 15th October publishes a cartoon in which a number of young men are represented as presenting petitions to a *saheb*. The letter-press, headed "The nomination of Deputies," contains the following dialogue:—

Commissioner.—Good morning, Babus. I hope you have heard from my Personal Assistant that I want three things in a candidate—the first or, I may say, the most important is some substantial donation to the Victoria Memorial Hall by your guardians, the second is your connection with some high executive officials, and the third is your high social position.

A candidate.—Huzur, would high University certificates go for nothing?

Commissioner.—Well, that is a very unimportant point. There are thousands of B. A.'s and M. A.'s begging from door to door.

A candidate.—My case is then hopeless.

Commissioner.—Well, what are you?

Candidate.—*Husur*, I took the first place in all the examinations of the Calcutta University of my time. I secured a medal in the M. A. Examination, and had been placed first with honours in three subjects in the B. A. Examination. I have none of those things which you want. My father is a zamindar's *muharrir* and is too poor to subscribe to the Victoria Memorial Fund. As for my social position, I am a *Naikasya Kulin*, *Fuler Mukhuti*, Vishnu Thakur's descendant (marks of a high caste in Hindu society in Bengal).

Commissioner.—I see, you have no chance, Babu. You may try for a clerkship.

Candidate.—Much obliged for your kind instruction.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

11. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 11th

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Oct. 11th, 1904.

The effect of floods on the right bank of the Damodar.

October says that the Engineer in charge of the Damodar river and his assistants show a culpable negligence in protecting its right bank from floods.

All their attention and efforts seem to be directed towards securing the embankment on the left bank of the river from any harm. This has evidently been the result of the censure which was once passed by the Government on Roy Bama Charan Paramanik Bahadur, Engineer, on account of a breach which had occurred in the embankment on the left bank and caused the water of the river to flow so far as the Burdwan town. The inhabitants of Burdwan town and the neighbouring villages count among them many Rajas, zamindars and influential men. They know how to ventilate their grievances and make the authorities take notice of them. But the inhabitants of the right bank of the Damodar, being but poor and ignorant villagers, suffer in silence. Last year Government sanctioned Rs. 7,500 for the protection of Natu and the neighbouring villages under the Rayna thana. An earthen embankment ought to have been raised with this money, but, instead of doing that, a bamboo work was raised and this was washed away by the very first flood that came after its construction. The washing away of the bamboo work gave rise to a number of breaches in the ground. Whenever the Damodar swells a little, water issues out of these breaches and submerges the surrounding fields. This has caused a complete failure of crops in Natu, Birbarpur and nine or ten other villages under the Rayna thana. The villagers petitioned the Executive Engineer to raise a low embankment at a small cost for the protection of the villages, but the latter replied that nothing could be done before winter. How will the poor people live for this one year?

12. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 12th October reports the

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Oct. 12th, 1904.

Distress in Doro pargana in Midnapore.

prevalence of distress in the Doro pargana khas mahal of Midnapore, due to irregular rainfall for some seasons successively. Several people have

been compelled to leave their villages in search of work in the town.

13. The correspondents of the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Oct. 17th, 1904.

Want of rain in some places in Bihar.

October report from Bagaha in Champaran, Daudnagar in Gaya, and Silant in Muzaffarpur that the standing crops are suffering for want of water, as

there has been no rain for the last two months.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

14. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 15th October has the following on the forthcoming Indian National Congress:—

AL PUNCH,
Oct. 15th, 1904.

The Indian National Congress.

With the approach of winter the orators and speech-makers will find an opportunity to give vent to their pent-up feelings and enjoy the hospitality of a neighbouring Province. The apparent result of these Congresses is that the expectation which the Hindus had of securing higher appointments under Government is gone, as these are filled up by Eurasians, who have hitherto been neglected, but have now become masters of the situation by filling up posts reserved for the Indians. The Report of the Police Commission has not yet been published, and it would be well if it is not

published at all, for with its publication the Hindus will find that they may get a constableness only.

What benefit has the Congress secured up to this time? We may also join it if any be expected.

AL PUNCH,
Oct. 15th, 1904.

15. In commenting upon the opinion of some nobleman in England that the stability of the English Government in India requires that the whole country should be converted to Christianity, the same paper remarks that one way to do this would be to send all the inhabitants of India to the other world so that the country may be occupied by Europeans. The best thing perhaps would be to call Christ himself for a short time.

AL PUNCH.

16. In noticing the application submitted by the Muhammadan community of Lahore against the system of competitive examinations which the Musalmans find it difficult to pass, and owing to which the Hindus secure more appointments under Government than the Muhammadans, the same paper finds similar conditions in Bihar, as it says all the offices and Courts are full of Bengalis.

URIYA PAPERS.

GARJATBASINI.
Oct. 8th, 1904.

17. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th October states that the people of that State are in great need of rain. There is a general cry for rain throughout the whole State, for the paddy crop is in danger.

GARJATBASINI.

18. The Athgarh correspondent of the same paper states that rain is urgently needed in that State.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.
Oct. 6th, 1904.

19. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th October states that the entire population of the Balasore district look towards the sky and pray for rain. The rice crop is in danger. The price of rice is rising. Clouds are seen in the sky and rain is expected.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Oct. 8th, 1904.

20. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th October states that the prices of rice and other staple foods are increasing and that the people urgently need rain.

URIYA AND NAVA-
SAMVAD.
Oct. 5th, 1904.

21. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th October states that the agriculturists in the Balasore district are impatiently waiting for a shower of rain. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that the people of that district pray for immediate rain.

URIYA AND NAVA-
SAMVAD.

22. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that drought has increased the demand for canal water in those parts of the Cuttack district which are traversed by the High Level Canal and its branches, and that agriculturists are mortified to find that canal water is not easily available on account of the mismanagement of the departmental authorities in charge of the canal and its distributaries.

GARJATBASINI,
Oct. 8th, 1904.

23. The Ganjam correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th October complains that the Uriyas are nowhere in the Postal Department of the Madras Presidency and that all the posts available for Indians in that department are monopolised by the Telegus, who preponderate in the Uriya-speaking districts of the Madras Presidency.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Oct. 8th, 1904.

24. The Salepur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th October complains that the imposition and levy of the chaukidari-tax have been a source of constant trouble to the poor and the illiterate, and that their distress is heightened by an increase in the water-rate. The writer hopes that the authorities will do something to relieve the poor on these accounts.

UTKALDIPIKA.

25. Referring to the establishment of a Joint Stock Trading Company in the Bamra State, the same paper observes that the Company, in order to be popular and prosperous, should always give preference to products of Indian industry.

A Joint Stock Trading Com-
pany in Bamra.

26. The same paper is glad that the Puri branch of the Utkal Union Conference has succeeded in inducing the Marwari community of that town, that deal in cloth, to keep always a large stock of cotton piece-goods of Indian manufacture ready for sale to the public. The writer hopes that other branches of the same Conference will do the same.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Oct. 8th, 1904.

27. Referring to the publication of a revised notification by the District Registrar of Cuttack, declaring that no Muhammadan marriages not registered by Kaji Nazir Muhammad, a Registrar under Act XII of 1880, are valid, the same paper observes that the proceeding is not legal, as the sense of the notification in question is not borne out by the text of the statutory law.

UTKALDIPIKA.

28. Referring to the suspension of a Sub-Inspector of Schools and the dismissal of an Inspecting Pandit by the District Board of Cuttack for submission of incorrect or false explanations and diaries, the same paper supports the action of the District Board and observes that there are grounds for believing that there are other black sheep in the Education branch of that Board.

UTKALDIPIKA.

29. Referring to the fact that stamp vendors generally levy an extra charge for the sale of stamps under different pleas, the same paper points out that, notwithstanding the stringency of the Stamp law and the Stamp rules, the vendors are compelled to charge such extras on account of the very small rate of commission that they receive as their remuneration. Such malpractices can only be removed by an improvement in the moral sense of both the purchasers and vendors.

UTKALDIPIKA.

30. Relying on the information of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* that the Pans of Angul are compelled to pass their nights in appointed houses in each village under the supervision of petty chaukidars and village headmen through fear that if set at liberty they will commit thefts and robberies, the same paper observes that if the information be correct it would go to establish a principle of tyranny contrary to all principles of British justice, for it is highly inequitable that the members of an important community should be deprived of their liberty on the apprehension that some or many may go astray and that the police may not be capable enough to bring the offenders to justice. The writer draws the attention of the higher authorities to the novel mode of checking crime adopted in Angul.

UTKALDIPIKA.

31. Referring to the speech delivered by Mr. Growse, Commissioner of the Orissa Division, at the Peary Mohan Academy after the distribution of annual prizes to the students of that institution, the same paper hopes that the gentlemen interested in the success of the school will try their best to secure a permanent fund, whereby a long lease of life can be granted to the institution, and to construct a boarding-house in connection with the school so as to accommodate a large number of students reading in the school and thereby carry out the valuable instructions of the Commissioner. The words of advice given to the students present by the Commissioner were also valuable.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

32. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 18th October, in reporting the death of Babu Sarat Chandra De, Inspector of Police of Sunamganj, from excessive drinking, calls attention to the fearful prevalence of this vice among police officers in Assam generally, and to the fact that it seriously interferes with their efficiency as public officers. Government interference is considered necessary to check the evil.

PARIDARSAK.
Oct. 1st, 1904.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 22nd October, 1904.

